

## COMMITTEE REPORTS AGM 2024

### CHAIRMAN (David Orme)

Firstly, my apologies for not making the AGM, due to inadvertently double-booking a cycling holiday in Vietnam with ex-work colleagues. Put it down to failing memory! Many thanks to Seth, who is filling in for me – but just for the AGM, so please don't read anything into this!

Having completed the King Alfred's Way last year in dry sunny weather, I can thoroughly recommend it as an excellent mixed road/gravel/track route. As well as Vietnam, I'm looking forward to cycling the Way of the Roses with other CBC members this June and, of course, the CBC weekend in Cirencester in September. Last year's weekend in Marlborough was most enjoyable – although some found the 4-mile Grand Avenue through Savernake Forest a little bumpy!

The 30th Gridiron 100km cycle round the Forest was held on October and (at least in my opinion) was the best ever. Great support from our members as helpers (Jan, Maggie & Den, Duncan & Kathy, Moksha, Wendy and, of course, organiser John Jackson) and as riders – the biggest CBC group I've seen on the Gridiron. Coupled with brilliant weather and excellent organisation.

I have provided cycling routes for two CBC groups who visited Gurnsey on day trips. If anyone else wants similar cycling information on the island, do let me know. We are planning on holding a series of Zoom meetings on the subject of reading, plotting and following cycle routes using various software applications and gps devices (eg Ride with GPS, Komoot, Garmin, Wahoo) – the first evening is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April, details to follow.

As well as being on the New Forest Cycle Working Group, I have had meetings with Lymington Transition Group regarding cycle infrastructure planning as a potential input into the New Forest Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – setting the strategy for the next 10-years. As part of this I have helped with the formation of the Cycling Tube Map for the southern New Forest which has been widely published in the press and we have presented it to the Cycle Working Group and local councils. I have met with New Milton Town Council a number of times to discuss this matter.

Last April I wrote to my local MP Desmond Swayne (NF West) concerning the severe cuts to the cycling budget and received the following reply: *"Thanks. In times when we have all sorts of pressures on the budget, I'm afraid that it comes down to priorities. Given the investment over recent years, I'm confident that most people can cycle, as I do, without additional funding."* Speaks for itself!

I am thankful that David Foster has taken on the role of Assistant Treasurer, relieving me of being the finance back-up – which at times has been quite time consuming, especially when dealing with PayPal. Thanks also to Lawrence Sillar who has been looking into the possibility of CBC being registered with HMRC as a charitable organisation – since this would mean changes to our club rules, we need to consult with members (and AGM vote) before progressing further.

I am glad the Mince Pie event ended up happening, despite being delayed and the awful weather meaning most of us drove to the Old Farmhouse. A magnificent turn-out, and well done the few who cycled. Thanks to Christine for organising, and to the Old Farmhouse for providing coffee and a large slice of mince tart to all who attended for just £1 each! Christine also facilitated Burley Cycles giving us all a Christmas £10 voucher.

Many thanks to Seth for managing the new club kit consultation, design and manufacture – short and long-sleeve jerseys have been ordered and are expected in the next few weeks.

By March 2025 I will have been chairman for 10 years and feel that's enough, especially as I now have other responsibilities including working towards better cycling infrastructure in the New Forest, and so am seeking a replacement. Hence it would be excellent if someone could join the committee at the AGM as vice-chair, to assist me and to see if they'd be happy taking on the role of chair.

## **CLUB SECRETARY (David Breakwell)**

### **Correspondence**

I have received enquiries about joining the off-road Cycle ride I have replied with details of the ride of the ride, which will start in March 2024.

We continued our membership of Cycle Time Trials and Cycling UK for this year.

Received an email from our member David Foster, who suggested we support Michaelhouse in Boscombe. Michael House is a homeless charity in Boscombe Bournemouth. They have a reconditioning bike project . Here is an extract from details which I have posted my facebook page <https://michaelhouse.co.uk>

“The residents of Michael House have been busy **reconditioning unwanted bikes for rough sleepers** and people within our local community for a nominal donation to cover the cost of parts.

Since starting the project in 2019, we have developed this initiative into a self-funding community project, with a view to helping more people to save their travel costs and further their move-on opportunities.”

### **Changes to affiliation membership of Cycling U.K**

The club renewed its membership of Cycling U.K in November 2023. The club can no longer offer affiliated membership which gives you membership with Personal Public liability at a reduced rate.

Cycling U.K has removed that the membership type in November 2023. They are offering a 20% exclusive discount to renew to full membership. I have notice that as of 30/01/2024 that there is for new members a discount of 25%.

### **BH Active Forum**

They have an active Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/groups/562345244426808?hoisted\\_section\\_header\\_type=recently\\_seen&multi\\_permalinks=1362400554421269](https://www.facebook.com/groups/562345244426808?hoisted_section_header_type=recently_seen&multi_permalinks=1362400554421269)

Their web is no longer updated [BH Active Travel - Cycling and walking in BCP](#)

Derek Heritage has informed us that there is no new cycling funding

## **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Val Lloyd-Smith)**

Although the majority of members confidently navigate the MemberMojo membership system, we are aware that there were some issues with renewals this year, notably:

- For a range of unrelated reasons some members found it difficult to access the system.
- Some members paid subscriptions but did not go into the system to actually renew, meaning that automatic reminders were sent as if payment was still required.
- There was some delay confirming payment for members who renewed using Bank transfer, cheque or cash. We are confident that this will be rectified for 2025!

We are assured that the system itself is robust and would like to remind all members that Iwan (Treasurer) and myself are very happy to take payment/renew membership for anyone who would like help with the process.

### **As of 4 March 2024, in Member Mojo, there are:**

Honorary Members 3 (3 in 2023)

Household Memberships 52 (54 in 2023)

Over 75 Memberships 41 (41 in 2023)

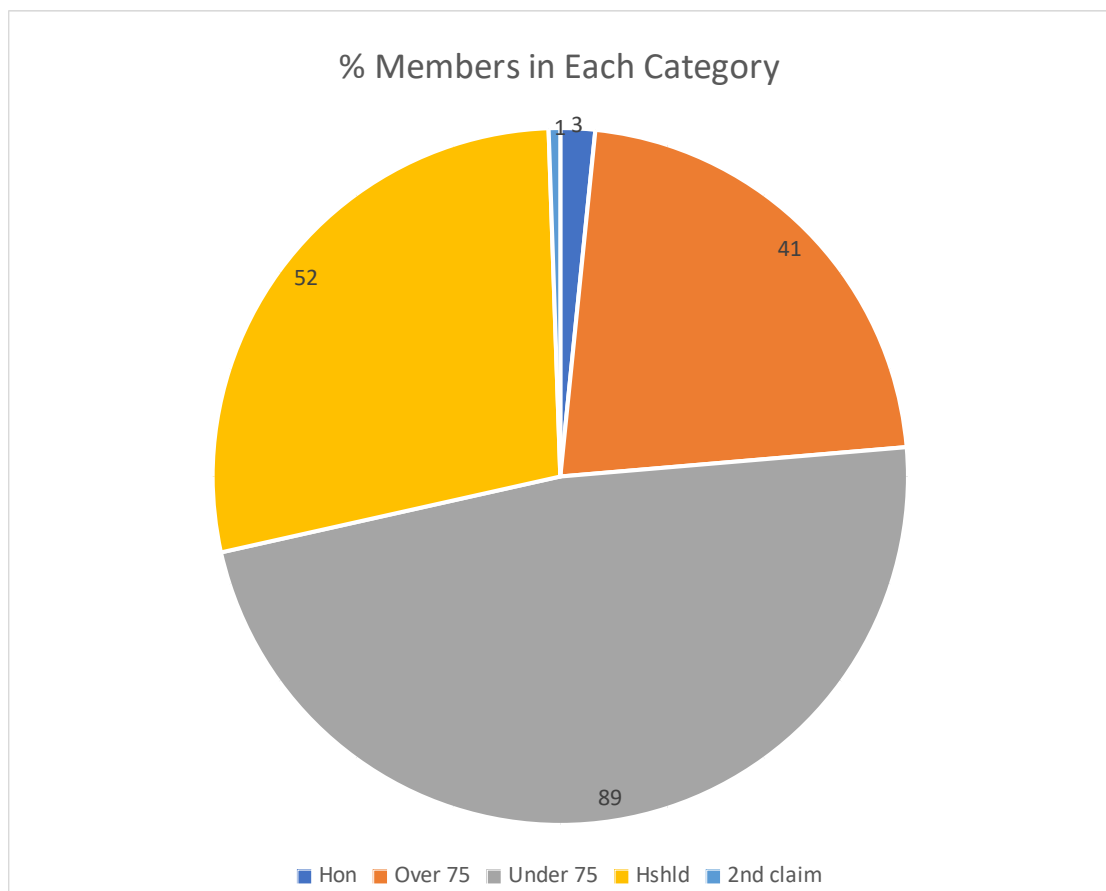
Under 75 Memberships 89 (100 in 2023)

Second Claim 1 (2 in 2023)

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**Membership Total:** 186 (200 in 2023)

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As in previous years, quick reminder that you can access and change personal information and print membership cards by logging into MemberMojo using the link in the 'Membership Details' tab on the CBC website. Any issues or queries, please do contact me – [membership@christchurchbicycleclub.org](mailto:membership@christchurchbicycleclub.org).

### **RIDES CO-ORDINATOR (Duncan Melling)**

#### **Thursday ride (Jan Milton) 10-11.5 mph**

The rides over the year have gone well and are usually well supported. We have divided into two or three groups depending on numbers starting and having in mind the maximum group number of 8.

They are very much a "social" ride, whereby the social chit-chat during breaks is almost as important as the ride itself. It is quite difficult to control the momentum of the rides and to ride in tight peleton formation because of the vast difference in age, ability and experience of the members. We are all on the rides essentially to keep as fit as we can with the passing years, or to build up our strength to join faster rides if we are inexperienced or recovering from injury/illness, etc. Without doubt we will each have a different pace and speed which we consider gives us the cardio-vascular fitness we are aiming for. However, first and foremost for the benefit of good humour and companionship we are happy to compromise on optimum personal speed requirements.

As far as possible we consider other road users and encourage small groups and plenty of gaps for cars to pass. "Safety" is always at the top of our agenda.

I do realise that this is a very important ride for all our members as they move into older age categories - which we all hope to do - and I have no objection to electric bikes joining us. Rather this than give up riding altogether.

It is my hope that this slower speed category of ride will always be available to our members.

### **Tuesday 10-12 mph (Kelvin Witt)**

A very well supported ride. Everything is running smoothly. Wendy Fox from Blandford has volunteered to lead some of the rides out of Wimborne this year.

### **Thursday 13-14 mph (Sue Turner)**

The ride remains popular. We have 6-8 people on most rides, sometimes up to 12. This small group, same ability riding makes for a really enjoyable day on a bike. There are people who can lead when I'm not available.

The only challenges are the weather and the road surfaces, not something the club can do much about! We communicate via a lively WhatsApp group.

### **Tuesday 12-14mph (Derek Heritage)**

The ride has gone from strength to strength with up 16 riders on a good day. We continue to attract new members to the club some go onto join the faster group and some have dropped down from the faster group. We have a variety of leaders ready to step in when Derek is unable to lead.

We are doing some lovely rides and a group of about 15 are going on a coast to coast trip in June.

All going very well.

### **Tuesday and Thursday 14-16mph (Duncan Melling, Rob Yorke, Brian Maxton, Stuart Mitchell)**

Four of us share the route planning and leading of these popular rides. There are usually over 12 riders out from the start, so we often need to split into 2 groups, at least to coffee where some may turn back. We have been varying the rides more recently, sometimes stopping for coffee and lunch and other times just stopping for lunch.

The ride caters for quite a wide range of abilities and fitness levels which isn't always easy to manage, but the ride leaders do a great job in managing this.

In summer we offer a number of car assisted rides to places such as round the Isle of Wight and the course of the Dorset Coastlet amongst others. The group also organises trips away. Last year a group rented a large house together in the South Downs National Park for a week, a group went to Mallorca and a group went on a tour through Portugal and Spain.

### **COMPETITIONS SECRETARY (Bill Simmons)**

The winner of the club Hillclimb was Dave King with Bill Simmons winning the downhill freewheel. On the time trial front the club came 34<sup>th</sup> out of 54 with 67 points. On the individual side I came 97 with 33 points from 6 rides Stuart Folley 25 from 2 rides and Rob York 9 from 2 rides out of 285 riders.

The 2024 Hillclimb will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> September with the 5<sup>th</sup> October as reserve date.

Also a competition will be run on Facebook/emailed photo`s to name café/lunch stops used by the club rides. Some will be in the cafes some near the stops.

### **WEBMASTERS (Rex Waygood & David Freed)**

David Freed and Rex Waygood are currently operating as joint webmasters and this enables a rapid response to almost all change requests.

David's knowledge allows him to sort some of the inner technicalities of Wordpress.

The website upgrade was completed to our satisfaction in September albeit that it took longer than originally anticipated.

The general feeling is that the new site is cleaner and simpler to navigate than the old site.

David has had some poor support from Hostgator, our current website host, and is investigating a move to another provider he has used when the renewal is due.

In February a ransom threat was received through the contact form on the Forum; since this is no longer used by the club it has been taken offline to prevent further vulnerability.

Laurence Sillar will re-engage with website security.